

State of the Preschool Review

By Scottie Trapp, Board Chair

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.”

Thich Nhat Hahn

For the first time in quite a while, Seigle Avenue Preschool faces a climate of hardship. We are surrounded by difficulties:

- 20% of our Preschool budget is questionable for the coming year due to the crisis at United Way.
- An atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty has been created by gas shortages (remember when we were only worried about the price?).
- Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and our own Wachovia are names now synonymous with either financial ruin or economic uncertainty instead of the stability they represented for years past.
- Our rent has more than doubled in the past year alone due to the Preschool having to renegotiate our Memorandum of Agreement with Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Here at Seigle Avenue Preschool, however, we are looking at these difficulties as opportunities. Our school is committed, now more than ever, to serving Charlotte's at-risk preschool children and families. As uncertain as these times seem for us, the situations we face pale in comparison to the challenges of the families we serve. As we work through this tough period, we want you to know that we are devoted and dedicated to the Preschool's future. Our plans include:

- Preparing more at-risk preschool children and their families for success in school and within the community.
- Advancing measurement tracking systems as our More at Four graduates progress through CMS, providing data we can use to closely examine our long term program results.
- Building capacity within our organizational structure so we are ready to accept the new and exciting opportunities the future holds for us and our families.

Our intention for Seigle Avenue Preschool is to embrace and define best practices in the area of early educational intervention for an at-risk population. The end result of the work we do at Seigle Avenue Preschool is building up one of the cornerstones of our community, children and families.

Together We Can!

Family to Family

Building Relationships, Two Families at a Time

What does a young, working, single mother of four living in Villa Heights have in common with a 40 year-old stay-at-home mom from Myers Park? A lot more than you might think! In its second year, "Family to Family" is a unique partnership between families at the Seigle Avenue Preschool and families from Myers Park Presbyterian Church. The families are matched together in pairs with the simple goal of building relationships.

Fellowship events and children's activities are planned throughout the year, giving these families - both parents and children - a chance to get to know each other.

"People are eager to make a personal connection with a family in need, but are often intimidated by how to go about it," says Veronica Smith, Parent Coordinator.

"Family to Family makes it easy by getting you started." Each match is unique, and takes off in its own direction. Though events take place throughout the school year, many families come up with their own activities too. "Our kids spent a week at sports camp together this summer," says Sally Helweg about her Seigle family. "They had a ball and we celebrated with a dinner out at the end of the week. We have

become so close to our Seigle family over the last year that I can't imagine a time when we won't be together

supporting each other. It's so refreshing to make a friend from a different background. It does us both good to get outside our comfort zone."

For more information, email Sally Helweg, shelweg@carolina.rr.com.



2008 - 2009 Board of Directors

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Together We Can!

ANNUAL APPEAL

The entire Seigle Avenue Preschool community counts on the financial support of friends like you to help us secure funding for our general operations. We appeal to you to open your heart and checkbook to these children and families in need.

This year, as we face uncertain economic times, we hope you will invest in the future of Seigle Avenue Preschool and all of the good work that happens here. We hope you will help us provide these at-risk children with a high quality preschool education, unlike any they would have access to otherwise.

Help save trees and time! You may give online through our secure website, www.seigleavepreschool.org.

If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

Thank you for your generosity.

Your Support Helped Us To...

- Launch our first ever Summer Institute, providing each child an education continuum all year round!
- Send an ever increasing number of our More at Four graduates to kindergarten reading!
- Provide speech and language therapy for all 40 children, as well as at-home instruction with parents!
- Compensate our teachers for continuing their early childhood education!
- Equip all three classrooms with new and safe furnishings!

THANK YOU!

2008-2009: Off to a Great Start!

by Judy Carter, CEO

(continued from page 1)

With much happiness, this past summer we launched our first Summer Institute and we have just received funding to provide Summer Institute 2009. Our goal with the Summer Institute is to provide an education continuum for each child, which reinforces each child's educational foundation while at the same time preventing summer learning loss.

As this year progresses, we acknowledge our many friendships and partnerships that truly are a blessing to us and allow us to continue strengthening Charlotte's at-risk children and families.

We thank you, our good friends, each and every day for everything you have done to support us over the years!



DID YOU KNOW:

Seigle Avenue Preschool serves 130 individuals each year.

Nearly three-quarters of the families we serve earn less than \$10,000 annually.

We are committed to providing depth of program to fully meet the needs of the enrolled children and families.

We run our program with a tight rein on expenses, 13 staff members, and over 300 volunteers each year.

We are only able to do what we do with the strong support of our community.

We rely on you to help us achieve our mission of providing high quality preschool education to at-risk families.



Stay in the loop and always get the Seigle Avenue Preschool Scoop!

Please fill out and return, or email your info to pam@seigleavepreschool.org.

Yes! Please count me as a Friend of Seigle Avenue Preschool.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

I prefer the Preschool (circle one) emails me / uses USPS to send information. The Preschool keeps all information confidential and secure.

I am enclosing a gift of \$ _____ for the Preschool's TOGETHER WE CAN! annual campaign.

Please contact me with information about:

- Making a gift of appreciated securities.
- Volunteering to read with a child.
- The Preschool's annual fundraising appeal.
- Leaving a gift to the Preschool in my will.

Thank You!

WHAT'S INSIDE

**FROM BOARD CHAIR
SCOTTIE TRAPP**
State of the Preschool
Review
page 2

FAMILY TO FAMILY
Myers Park Presbyterian
Church families and
Preschool families hook
up for friendship and
support
page 2

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**
2008-2009 State
page 2

TOGETHER WE CAN!
And we will! How your
gift from last year
positively impacted the
lives of the children
served by Seigle
Avenue Preschool...
and why we need your
support more than ever!
page 3

Our mission is to provide a high quality, tuition free preschool education to at-risk families living in Charlotte's Seigle Avenue/Belmont community through a unique partnership with our children, families, parents, staff, and patrons.
www.seigleavepreschool.org



Seigle Avenue Preschool Cooperative

SCOOP

A BRIGHTER FUTURE BEGINS TODAY

2008-2009: Off to a Great Start!

Judy Carter, Chief Executive Officer

At Seigle Avenue Preschool, we have experienced many miracles and blessings as we have watched our children grow and develop over the past 22 years. History continues to repeat itself, as new miracles and blessings sprinkle down on us everyday. The 2008-2009 school year started off at an exciting pace. We are currently at capacity after successfully transitioning 40 children into our program. Each child is soaking up the many creative and fun activities that the teachers have introduced to them. The teachers have spent the first weeks of school getting to know the children and families. In September, assessment studies of each child's skills and

developmental levels were conducted. This type of analysis then enables each teacher to best match each of her child's performance levels with the appropriate lessons and activities to meet the individual developmental and educational needs.

Our planning goals are driven by our students' needs to create, explore, and manipulate the many facets of the world around us. Such experiences facilitate the social, mathematical, speech and language growth of each child. Our students' world of learning involves field trips and special activities that build onto the learning that happens in the classrooms. Volunteers and outside programs visit the preschool to further enhance each child's development.

Another integral part of our curriculum is the Developing Emergent Literacy program. In its fifth year of use at Seigle Avenue Preschool, this comprehensive program allows us to provide onsite speech therapy, language and literacy educational support to families and staff, as well as bring the literacy curriculum into the home. (continued on p. 3)



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www.seigleavepreschool.org

Interested in becoming a VOLUNTEER?

We have an opportunity for you! Read with one of our two, three or four year olds in our library, Monday - Friday, anytime from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Call (704) 377-8076, ext 210 for details.